

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-42. (Canceled)

43. (New) A method for device selection in a computer system, the method comprising:

creating a common dialog object;

obtaining device information to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing enumerated device information contained in a function discovery database;

displaying the common dialog object with the obtained device information;

receiving a user selection from the displayed common dialog object; and

returning a reference to a device which is identified based on the user selection by accessing the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database.

44. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein obtaining device information to be displayed within the common dialog object comprises filtering device information obtained from the function discovery database.

45. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein filtering device information obtained from the function discovery database is specified by a caller.

46. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein filtering device information obtained from the function discovery database is specified by a user.

47. (New) The method of Claim 44, wherein filtering device information obtained from the function discovery database is specified by a selected parameter.

48. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein accessing the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database comprises using a programming interface.

49. (New) The method of Claim 48, wherein using a programming interface comprises:

creating information for a first segment of code, the information received from the common dialog object; and

communicating the information for the first segment of code to a second segment of code in the function discovery database to access functionality provided by the second segment of code.

50. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises communicating through a medium.

51. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises dividing the communication into multiple discrete communications.

52. (New) The method of Claim 51, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

53. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises redefining the communication by ignoring at least one or more parameters.

54. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communications of the first code segment to a second code segment.

55. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein communicating the information for the first segment of code to the second segment of code comprises rewriting functionality.

56. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a module, object, subroutine, and function.

57. (New) The method of Claim 49, wherein each segment of code includes at least one of a source code, intermediate code, or object code.

58. (New) The method of Claim 43, wherein receiving a user selection from the displayed common dialog object comprises determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected.

59. (New) The method of Claim 58, wherein determining whether an actionable function on a device within a user interface has been selected includes determining that a right-click has been performed.

60. (New) A system for accessing and manipulating device information for user selected desired devices, wherein the device information is presented in a unified way, the system comprising;

a device selection user interface having actionable icons for a set of devices;

a function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to the set of devices;

a programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database; and

a data processing component having an executable component, which, when executed:

creates a common dialog object on the user interface having actionable icons for the set of devices;

obtains device information to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface;

displays the common dialog object with the obtained device information;

receives a user selection from the displayed common dialog object; and

returns a reference to a device which is identified based on the user selection by accessing the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface.

61. (New) The system of Claim 60, further comprising a filtering component for selecting a subset of the devices that are returned to the common dialog object.

62. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a click option for displaying device information.

63. (New) The system of Claim 62, wherein the actionable icons for the set of devices have a right-click option for displaying device information.

64. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface includes descriptions of the set of devices.

65. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a mouse.

66. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has an actionable button for a keyboard.

67. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the device selection user interface has a control bar.

68. (New) The system of Claim 60, wherein the programming interface corresponding to the device selection user interface for interacting with the function discovery database comprises:

a first code segment on the common dialog object; and

a second code segment on the function discovery database;

wherein, when executed, the data processing component having the executable component communicates information through the first code segment to the second code segment.

69. (New) The system of Claim 68, wherein the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment is separated into multiple discrete communications.

70. (New) The system of Claim 69, wherein the multiple discrete communications are divided into divisible sets of functionality.

71. (New) The system of Claim 68, further comprising one or more pieces of middleware to convert the information being communicated through the first code segment to the second code segment.

72. (New) A computer-readable medium having computer-readable components for presenting device information in a unified and consistent way and for accessing and manipulating device information for user selected devices, the computer-readable medium comprising:

- a device selection user interface component for displaying actionable icon components for a set of devices;

- a programming interface component corresponding to the device selection user interface component for interacting with a function discovery database, the function discovery database having enumerated device information corresponding to a set of devices; and

- a data processing component having an executable component, which, when executed:

- creates a common dialog object on the user interface component having actionable icon components for the set of devices;

- obtains device information to be displayed within the common dialog object by accessing enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface component;

- displays the common dialog object with the obtained device information;

- receives a user selection from the displayed common dialog object;

- returns a reference to a device which is identified based on the user selection by accessing the enumerated device information contained in the function discovery database through the programming interface component.

73. (New) The computer-readable medium of Claim 72, further comprising a filtering component and an enumeration component, wherein the enumeration component retrieves all relevant device information in the function discovery database and the filtering component allows an application to select a subset of the device information that is returned by the enumeration component.

74. (New) A method for providing information in a unified and consistent way to a common dialog object through a programming interface, the method comprising:

receiving information from the common dialog object through a first segment of code on the programming interface; and

accessing enumerated information on a function discovery database, the information being communicated through the first segment of code to a second segment of code.

75. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises breaking the communication, between the first code segment and the second code segment, into multiple discrete communications.

76. (New) The method of Claim 74, wherein accessing enumerated information on the function discovery database comprises redefining the communication by the second segment of code, the second segment of code ignoring at least one or more parameters from the first segment of code.

77. (New) The method of Claim 74, further comprising using one or more pieces of middleware to convert the communication on the first code segment to the second code segment.

78. (New) The method of Claim 74, further comprising rewriting functionality within the function discovery database.